



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Violent Crime Coordinating Council

c/o Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs

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Washington County Chief Deputy Brian Mueller, Chair

Violent Crime Coordinating Council Minutes – Wednesday, June 12th, 2019

Minnesota Department of Corrections - 1450 Energy Park Drive – Pung Conference Room, 2nd Floor- St. Paul, MN

Members present: David Voigt, Richard Dusterhoft, Jeff Edblad, Ken Sass, Bruce Folkens, Jim Hughes, Pat King, Mike Martin, Scott Hable, Brian Mueller, John Melvin, John Littlewolf, and Drew Evans.

DPS staff: Kate Weeks, Nigel Perrote, Brian Marquart and Kristin Lail.

Guests: Mark Uner, Steve Vo, Shawn Grande and Paul Peterson.

Meeting Materials:

- 6/12/19 VCCC Agenda
- 6/12/19 Statewide Commanders Report
- 4/10/19 Meeting Minutes
- 2020 VCET Funding Plan & 2020 VCET Eligibility Criteria
- MN Fusion Center Drug Overdose Bulletin

Welcome, introductions and announcements

Chair Brian Mueller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. VCCC members and guests introduced themselves.

M/S/P Hable/Hughes to approve minutes from 4/10/19 meeting.

M/S/P Folkens/Edblad to approve the 6/12/19 meeting Agenda.

Legislative Update

Kate Weeks provided a brief update on the proposed forfeiture statute change and marijuana legalization task force study that did not move forward in committees. She noted that the Opioid Stewardship bill that was signed by the governor included funds for BCA field agents, forensic lab scientists and Fusion Center analysts. There was not additional funding for VCET opioid investigations. DHS will be convening a multidisciplinary Opioid Oversight Committee. BCA staff also testified for bills on electronic access to search warrants, cell phone tracking and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) data retention. Brian Mueller asked about next steps in marijuana policy, noting public safety concerns about impaired driving, lab testing of edibles and vape cartridges and changes in charging levels.

Committee Updates

Brian Mueller stated that Governance Committee was covered in the legislative update.

Drew Evans reported that the Professional Standards Committee met prior to the full VCCC meeting and reviewed the 2018 contracted VCET reviews. They also discussed the outcomes of internal affairs investigations in Paul Bunyan, Anoka, Southwest Metro, Ramsey and Anoka-Hennepin VCETs. They confirmed the process of VCET commanders notifying the Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator of any internal affairs investigations of VCET staff.

John Littlewolf noted that the Community Engagement Committee reviewed the prevention and community outreach sections of 2017 VCET applications and will be recommending language for the 2020 RFP. They will also be reviewing progress reporting from the past two years and making recommendations for the new grants.

Partner Updates

There were no updates from DEA, the U.S. Attorney's Office, BCA, the Attorney General's Office or other state partners. Representatives from the Minnesota Sheriff's Association noted that they were proactively discussing forfeiture bill provisions before the next legislative session. Representatives from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association agreed and stated that they were also working with the Minnesota County Attorney's Association on marijuana policy recommendations. Brian Marquart noted the previous recommendation of the VCCC to increase cash seizure thresholds in the VCET Guidelines Manual.

VCET Grant Update

Kristin Lail stated that the funding available for 2020 VCET grants remains constant with about \$3.7 million in state funds and about \$600,000 in federal Justice Assistance Grant funds. Members discussed in the increase cost of investigations including sentencing guidelines changes and increases in insurance for joint powers entities. She reviewed a timeline for the 2020 VCET RFP process and noted that there were no changes recommended to the VCET Eligibility Criteria.

M/S/P Hable/Martin to accept the 2020 VCET Eligibility Criteria for the RFP.

Challenge Incarceration Program

Paul Peterson from the Minnesota Department of Corrections provided an overview of the Challenge Incarceration Programs (CIP) in Shakopee, Togo and Willow River correctional facilities. He reviewed CIP eligibility criteria (handout provided), noting exclusions for violent crimes, and reviewing data on length of time served. He noted that they had recently presented at the statewide drug court conference and meet with the Duluth VCET staff about shortened sentences and supervised release. The DOC plans to update a 2008 study of CIP participation and recidivism.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:45

Statewide Commander Update

Brian Marquart reported on the completion of eight VCET peer review site visits and plans to complete the others during the summer of 2019. The MSANI Conference in May had more than 370 attendees with presentations on undercover operations, conspiracy investigations, confidential informant management, hotel/motel investigations, transportation trends, GPS tracking and two local case studies. He also is planning a two-week basic narcotics course this summer and undercover class at Camp Ripley this fall.

VCET Presentation

Shawn Grande presented an overview of the Northwest Metro Drug Task Force comprised of first and second ring suburbs in Hennepin County including Plymouth, New Hope, Chrystal and Robbinsdale. They coordinate with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office as well as locally funded West Hennepin and Northwest Hennepin Task Forces. He provided several case examples coordinating with other VCETs, state and federal partners and extending into other states.

M/S/P Hughes/Hable to adjourn the VCCC meeting at 1:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The August 14th meeting will likely be cancelled, so the next meeting of the VCCC will be held on Wednesday, October 9th and will include VCET Advisory Board Chairs. The VCCC Executive Committee will meet via conference call to determine the meeting agenda and training plan.